

Remarks

This is in supplement to the Amendment filed on February 23, 2004, and the Request for Continued Examination filed on April 5, 2004. Claims 1-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their future prosecution. Claim 20 remains pending. Expedited reconsideration and allowance of claim 20 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Robert A. Kalinsky (Reg. No. 50,471), during the interview on April 21, 2004. During the interview, claims 1, 12, and 20 were discussed in view of Fierro et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,705,979, and Peltier et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,708,414. While agreement regarding allowance of claims 1 and 12 was not reached, agreement was reached that claim 20 was in allowable form.

Claims 1-19 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in future prosecution, and the correctness of the rejection of these claims is not conceded.

However, since claim 20 is the only pending claim and has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone (612.336.4771) with any further questions or issues related to this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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